

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR SESSION

February 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: The North Branch City Council met in regular session and Acting Mayor Borchardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers present were Theresa Furman, Joyce Borchardt, and Trent Jensen. Councilmembers Kathy Blomquist and Ronald Lindquist were absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Konrad, Planner Roberts, Police Chief Meyer, Finance Director Hill, Liquor Store manager Dahlberg and City Attorney Squires.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Claims
- Resolution 010-02-24-14 – Knights of Columbus Bingo License
- Remove from Probation – Public Works Maintenance I L. Hischer
- Resolution 009-02-24-14 – Accept Philipson Resignation, Declare Vacancy & Authorize Advertisement
- Authorize Closed Session After Regular Session – IUOE & LELS Negotiations

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

NONE

COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS:

6A PLANNING COMMISSION

A1 CUP Lakes Region EMS

Planner Roberts outlined the CUP application submitted by Lakes Region EMS to operate an ambulance service on Fletcher Avenue.

Lake Area EMS Manager Aaron Reinert said this is an exciting opportunity for them to continue to grow in the community.

Council discussed rewording condition number five of the resolution to allow the sleeping quarters for emergency responders. The condition would end when Lakes Region EMS ceased operation at the location.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to approve Resolution 008-02-24-14, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE OFFICES AND HEADQUARTERS OF

LAKES REGION EMS AT 40425 FLETCHER AVENUE” as amended. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Furman thanked Ken for adding the extra sentence or two.

6B	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	NONE
6C	PARK COMMISSION	NONE
6D	WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION	
	D1 Minutes	INFO

STAFF REPORTS:

7A	ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS	NONE
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7B ADMINISTRATION

B1 Liquor Store Assistant Manager – Authorize Advertisement

Konrad explained that the Liquor Committee met and reviewed the operations of the liquor store and the job duties and responsibilities of all positions in the store and discussed the future of the store. The Committee felt that the Assistant Liquor Store position is needed and they are seeking approval to advertise for the position.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Borchardt, to approve authorizing advertisement for assistant liquor store manager position.

Furman asked the reasoning behind needing this position. Jensen explained that the committee did look at different scenarios and they do not believe that those scenarios would be any cheaper and would actually cost more money.

After discussion, all voted AYE. Motion carried.

B2 Driver Awareness Program

Attorney Squires provided an update on the proposed driver awareness program for the City. Attorney Squires said that the worst-case scenario is that whatever revenue was generated from this program would have to be paid back if it is determined this is not allowed. Meyer felt that the program will be addressed during the next legislative session.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Borchardt, to suspend the driver awareness program and review it no later than the first meeting in June.

Jensen said that the County has agreed to move forward and he feels this is a low risk.

After discussion, all voted AYE. Motion carried.

B3 Topline/Lindman Property JOBZ Repayment Advertisement

Hill explained that in June of last year Topline was notified that JOBZ had been eliminated on that property. There is a “claw back” provision that allows the Minnesota Department of Revenue to pursue payments from existing owner for the property tax benefits received by Topline. Hill indicated that the current owner is the bank and they are an unrelated third party with nothing to do with the operation of the business. The Commissioner of Revenue can waive the repayment obligations and is looking for input from the City.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Furman, to direct staff to send a letter to the Department of Revenue supporting waiver of the claw back because if not waived it could have a negative impact on the future growth of the industrial park. All voted AYE. Motion carried.”

7C	BUILDING	
	C1	Activity Report
		INFO
7D	FINANCE	NONE
7E	LEGAL	NONE
<u>NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS:</u>		NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emil Dahlberg of Cassleberry Drive addressed Council to discuss the issue of moving public comments from the beginning to the end of the meeting. Mr. Dahlberg said that there are ramifications to doing so. Mr. Dahlberg indicated that last year in April the Mayor’s address indicated that they would create a new model of government and the need to be transparent. Mr. Dahlberg would like the Council to revisit and reconsider how they get the residents involved. Mr. Dahlberg would like to see the public comments moved prior to the action items during the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

12A	Upcoming Agendas	INFO
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Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen to recess to closed session to discuss union contracts. All voted AYE. Motion carried. Recessed at 7:36 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to approve the contract between the City and IUOE Local 49 for 2014-2015. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to approve the contract between the City and LELS for 2014-2015. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Motion by Furman, seconded by Jensen, to adjourn the meeting. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED at 7:52 p.m. by Acting Mayor Borchardt.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS